

1 **What is claimed is:**

2 1. A ratcheting wrench comprising:

3 a handle having an end, the end of the handle having a
4 compartment;

5 a head extending from the end of the handle and having a hole
6 communicated with the compartment of the handle;

7 a drive member rotatably mounted in the hole of the head, the drive
8 member having an end located outside the head, the drive member including
9 a hole for engaging with a fastener-driving member, allowing joint rotation
10 of the drive member and the fastener-driving member when the drive
11 member is turned, the drive member further including a plurality of teeth on
12 an outer periphery thereof, two annularly spaced slots being defined in the
13 end of the drive member for communicating the hole of the drive member
14 with an exterior, the drive member further including a stop on an inner
15 periphery delimiting the hole of the drive member and opposite to the end of
16 the drive member outside the head, the stop preventing the fastener-driving
17 member from disengaging from the hole of the drive member;

18 a retainer mounted around the end of the drive member, the retainer
19 having two resilient portions extending into the hole of the drive member
20 via the slots for rotatably holding the drive member in the hole of the head
21 and for securely, releasably holding the fastener-driving member in the hole
22 of the drive member; and

23 a ratcheting mechanism mounted in the compartment of the handle
24 and engaged with the teeth of the drive member, the ratcheting mechanism
25 allowing the handle to selectively move in a ratcheting direction for
26 tightening/loosening a fastener engaged with the fastener-driving member

- 1 and in a free turning direction reverse to the ratcheting direction in which
2 the fastener engaged with the fastener-driving member is not turned.
- 3 2. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retainer is a
4 substantially U-shaped metal wire and includes an intermediate portion and
5 two resilient legs respectively extending from two ends of the intermediate
6 portion.
- 7 3. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 2, wherein each said resilient leg
8 has a rectilinear section that partially extends into the hole of the drive
9 member via an associated one of the slots.
- 10 4. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 2, wherein the retainer includes at
11 least two exposed sections outside the drive member.
- 12 5. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slots are
13 diametrically opposed to each other.
- 14 6. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive member
15 further includes a flange formed on an outer periphery of another end thereof,
16 the flange being located outside the head for manual rotation of the drive
17 member.
- 18 7. The ratcheting tool as claimed in claim 6, wherein the flange has an
19 embossed outer periphery.
- 20 8. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 6, wherein the flange abuts against
21 an end face of the head.
- 22 9. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the handle
23 has an opening defined in a side thereof and communicated with the
24 compartment of the handle, the ratcheting mechanism including a pawl
25 slidably mounted in the compartment of the handle and a switch member
26 rotatably mounted in the compartment of the handle and operably connected

1 to the pawl such that rotation of the switch member causes sliding movement
2 of the pawl in the compartment between two positions, the switch member
3 having a turn piece extending to a position outside the handle via the opening
4 of the handle, allowing manual rotation of the switch member to thereby
5 move the pawl between the two positions for changing the ratcheting
6 direction of the handle.

7 10. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pawl includes a
8 first, toothed side for engaging with the teeth of the drive member, the pawl
9 further including a second side having a recessed portion, the recessed
10 portion having two inclined faces that are spaced apart by an intermediate
11 section therebetween, the pawl further including two abutting faces for
12 selectively abutting against a wall delimiting the compartment of the handle
13 when the drive member is turned in the ratcheting direction.

14 11. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 10, wherein the switch member
15 includes a cylindrical body with the turn piece extending outward from an
16 end of the cylindrical body, a receptacle being defined in the cylindrical body,
17 an elastic element and a pressing member being received in the receptacle of
18 the cylindrical body, the pressing member being biased by the elastic element
19 to selectively press against one of the inclined faces of the pawl.

20 12. The ratcheting wrench as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cylindrical body
21 further includes two engaging portions one of which presses against an
22 associated one of the inclined faces of the pawl to thereby provide a more
23 reliable support for the pawl when the drive member is turned in the
24 ratcheting direction.